

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 9, and 25 were amended, claim 7 was cancelled without prejudice, and claim 32 was added. Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled claim 7. Additional support for the amendments can be found in Figs. 5A and 5B and their relevant description. Claim 25 was amended to depend from claim 18 instead of claim 16 to overcome the Section 112 rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112. The Office Action rejected claim 25 under Section 112, second paragraph for failing to provide antecedent basis for the “selection-signal generating circuit” feature. This feature is recited in claim 18. Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 18. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102. The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chapman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,789,958). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Chapman et al. fail to disclose or suggest duplicating said plurality of source signals to obtain a first and a second signal groups and generating a first and a second output signals at a first and a second time points based on said first and said second signal groups, respectively, as recited in the amended claim 1. On the contrary, the output signals OUTA and OUTB in Chapman et al are derived from different groups of source signals, i.e. PH[0]-PH[7] and PH[8]-PH[15] (Fig. 4) whose phases are different (Fig. 6). Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 and 8-15 are novel over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the rejection under Section 102(b) is requested.

Applicant submits new claim 32 is allowable over the cited reference because Chapman et al. fail to disclose or suggest that the first and said second time points are predetermined and located by counting operations in response to a first and a second clock signals, respectively. This feature is noted in the Examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance set forth on page 4 of the Office Action.

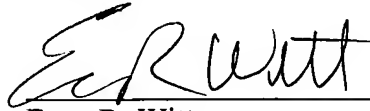
Further, according to the Office Action, claims 16-24 and 26-31 have been allowed.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all currently pending claims 1-6 and 8-32 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that

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a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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